

Remarks

Claims 1-17 are pending in the instant application. Applicants have amended claims 1-17 to more fully conform with U.S. practice and to remove multiple dependencies. The amendments do not constitute new matter.

The enclosed substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(3) and 1.125 is for publication purposes and does not contain any markings. It includes a new first paragraph cross referencing the related priority applications.

Applicants provide herewith copies of the published international application, the international search report, the International Preliminary Report on Patentability and the Written Opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. Also enclosed is the Form PTO-1449 listing the cited references with copies of the non-US citations.

A signed combined Declaration and Power of Attorney is also enclosed.

Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are fairly based on the specification, and respectfully request their entry. Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable form and earnestly solicited the allowance of claims 1-17.

Respectfully submitted,


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